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Manager's Message:

The Power of Preparation

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe now, before the storm.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics. Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents, such as birth certificates, property deed, etc., in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for Vulnerable Family Members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a

J. Michael Davis

General Manager



few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keep Four-Legged Family Members Safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets, include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies.

At Tri-County EMC we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Save the Date: Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

Tri-County EMC's 2022 Annual Meeting will once again be drive-thru only. Members can register for the meeting and vote without leaving their vehicle. Drive-thru lanes will be set up at our corporate office in Dudley, NC. Be on the lookout for more details in the next issue of *Carolina Country!*

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation
Headquarters, Dudley NC



Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Tri-County EMC, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions us to advocate for our local community.

While Tri-County EMC is a locally owned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you're looking to get involved or simply make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

- 1 Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date.** Visit vote.coop, then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
- 2 Get informed.** In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.
- 3 Get active on social media.** Follow [@coopsvote](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and let others know you're a [#coopvoter](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote) and [#VoteReady](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote); encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- 4 Help others prepare to vote.** Work a National Voter Registration Day event (visit nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events), volunteer

to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.

5 Vote! It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote and help others in our community get [#VoteReady](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote).

We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.



National Voter Registration Day
Tuesday, September 20

Visit www.vote.coop to ensure you're [#voteready](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote).

The poster features three circular images: a man holding a ballot, a box of 'CO-OPS VOTE' materials, and a woman holding a sign that says 'Recruiter to Vote'. Below the images are two red ballot boxes.

Understanding Blinks and Surges

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption in your electric service, which could result from a blink or power surge. While the symptoms of blinks and power surges can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be very different.

What's a Power Blink?

Blinking lights are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole or an animal or tree limb making contact with an energized power line.

When lights blink, it is an indication that the cooperative's equipment is operating properly. A blink is actually a breaker testing the power line to see if the damage was only there for a brief time and the power can come back on. If your power blinks several times and stays out, it means the breaker tested the damage and a Tri-County EMC lineworker needs to repair the damage.

What's a Power Surge?

Surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage electronics. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage and disturbances in the power waveform. Rarely, power surges can reach amplitudes high enough to damage equipment.

Surges are most often caused by lightning strikes and can sometimes be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems,

large motors and compressors, welders, or problems with equipment connected to your service.

What Can You Do?

Install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

Regardless of the cause, Tri-County EMC crews are ready to respond should a power outage occur. We are here for you, we are your cooperative!



Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PowerGuard Complete Package \$249.95 plus tax

Storm Filter only \$185 plus tax

8 Outlet \$89.95 plus tax

PROGRAM DETAILS

Signing up for Tri-County's Power Guard surge protection program is more than getting additional insurance. It is actually enrolling in a program that installs a meter base protector behind your electric meter & offers a unique plug-in suppressor.

The meter base surge protector provides outstanding protection for major appliances. It serves as the first stage of protection.

Sensitive electronics must have their own protection. Thus, the second stage is different plug-ins available to protect electrical, telephone, antenna and cable connections to your sensitive electronics. The special plug-in suppressors offered by Tri-County stop surges at the lowest level even at the highest test (3,000 amp impulse).

AMOUNTS BILLED TO ELECTRIC BILL OVER 3 MONTHS.

For more information on power surge equipment and prices call 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. You can also email bob.kornegay@tcemc.com

Teachers: Don't Wait to Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant

The deadline for interested teachers to apply for a Bright Ideas grant is quickly approaching, and applicants have until Sept. 15 to submit an application for Tri-County EMC funding.

A shared initiative of Tri-County EMC and electric cooperatives statewide, Bright Ideas grants support local teachers with creative ideas to innovate teaching and improve student success in K-12 classrooms. To find the application or learn more about the program, visit ncbrightideas.com.

Teachers in any discipline, from engineering to art, can apply to receive a grant of up to \$1,000. Last year, Tri-County EMC awarded more than \$80,000 to local teachers to fund 98 projects.

“At Tri-County EMC, we believe that education is an essential part of building and bettering our community,



and Bright Ideas grants enable us to help local teachers who continue to go above and beyond in the classroom,” said Deidra Grantham, manager of marketing and communications of Tri-County EMC.

To find out more about the Bright Ideas education grant program and how Tri-County EMC is powering a Brighter Future, visit tcemc.com.

Holiday Closing: Tri-County County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to tcemc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone. To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

Get Connected



Website | tcemc.com

Find current news, information about your cooperative, managing your account and energy use, special programs, outage safety and more.

Facebook | facebook.com/tricountyemc

Find current events and get updates during major outages.

Twitter | twitter.com/TriCoEMC



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

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Employees Ready to Serve You



Paula Davis

Paula Davis is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Paula has worked with Tri-County since Jan. 1, 2003, as a member services representative/cashier. Paula resides in Mount Olive with her husband, Bo.